

Exhibit No. 2Date 4-18-07Bill No. SB 497**Betty L. Babcock**

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Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2007 11:54 PM
Subject: SB497

Dear Representative Barrett,

I understand you are a member of the Conference Committee on SB497.

As the President of the Montana Restoration Foundation since 1996 I have had the opportunity and the privilege to be invited to many meetings of the Capitol Complex Council or Commission. You may not be aware that there are always many request to have all different kinds of art work, pictures, busts, bronzes and yes, even a carousel horse. placed in the Capitol. Each and everyone are usually beautiful precious items or pieces but it is impossible to place all the things that people request to have placed in the "Capitol". That is why the legislature created the Capitol Complex Committee and also the procedures to follow.

SB497 may seem what should be an exception but try to imagine if permission is granted by SB497 even before a mural is created and by not going through that procedures what would happen. How many more people would then want their treasure placed in the Capitol. right away or without going through the proper procedures.

Please understand ,I think the idea of honoring Montana Women in this way is an excellent one., and quit an undertaking. I'm sure it will be an excellent and beautiful piece of art but I do believe it is a mistake to guarantee at this time that it would be placed in the Capitol.

I feel certain that Senator Moss thinks that the New Montana History Center is so far in the future that it will never happen. I can see a beautiful mural like that at the entrance to the building or to the anticipated auditorium and I'm sure many other important places much more spacious and by no means LESS Important.

There are many fantastic native American artifacts that the present Museum is unable to display at this time .We are looking forward to when they can be displayed. The New History Center will be a Center Piece for Montana History and many beautiful things as well as educational opportunities. It will also be the first place that visitors will stop when coming to Helena and before going to our Capitol. There would be more space, more light and many more choices. It could be bigger, better and all the more treasured by all the women and others that would view it.

There is a meeting with an architect from Billings this Friday , I hope to be able to attend. With all of us working with the same goal in mind we can make bigger and better things happen.

I hope the Conference Committee will understand and please make the right decision.

Respectfully Requested,

Betty Babcock